

MARVEL

10

LGY#736

DONNY CATES

NIC KLEIN

MATT WILSON

THOR



prey
PART 2

OLIVIER GREL 20-
20-

THOR

THOR IS THE GOD OF THUNDER AND ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD.

RECENTLY THE HAMMER MJOLNIR HAS GROWN HEAVY FOR THE KING – WHILE THOR STRUGGLES TO LIFT IT, EVERYONE ELSE, FROM A MECHANIC IN BROXTON TO THOR’S OWN BROTHER LOKI, HAS NO TROUBLE PICKING UP THE HAMMER.

HOPING TO FIND ANSWERS FROM ASGARD’S ELDER GODS, THOR ATTEMPTED TO TRADE PLACES WITH HIS OLD ALTER EGO, DONALD BLAKE. BLAKE HAS BEEN DORMANT FOR YEARS NOW, ENJOYING WHAT THOR BELIEVED TO BE AN IDYLIC LIFE IN A WORLD OF ODIN’S MAKING.

BUT THOR WAS WRONG. TRAPPED IN A SUBURBAN FANTASY, BLAKE WENT INSANE. NOW THE THUNDER GOD’S MORTAL VESSEL...HAS A TASTE FOR BLOOD.

AND THOR JUST RELEASED HIM ONTO ASGARD – WHERE BLAKE PROMPTLY BROKE THE CANE THAT ALLOWS THEM TO TRADE PLACES.

“prey” PART TWO OF SIX

DONNY CATES
WRITER

NIC KLEIN
ARTIST

MATT WILSON
COLOR ARTIST

VC’S JOE SABINO
LETTERER & DESIGNER

OLIVIER COIPEL & LAURA MARTIN
COVER ARTISTS

**NIC KLEIN; RYAN OTTLEY & FRANK MARTIN;
KEN LASHLEY & NOLAN WOODARD**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

KAC GREGOROWICZ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

SARAH BRUNSTAD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

WIL MOSS
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THOR created by SCAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY

Before he became
a doctor...

Before he stumbled upon
that enchanted cane that
would turn him into the
god of the storms and
heir to a city of gold...

Donald Blake was a young man
in premed, doing humanitarian
work in a disease-stricken
village near Nicaragua.

It was there, surrounded by the
dying and starving and diseased,
that Donald Blake experienced
the bite of the *Paraponera
clavata*.

Most commonly
known as the
bullet ant.

Its bite is said to be
one of the most painful
experiences a human
can live through.

Now, as he holds the fabled
Book of Kings in his god-
blood-soaked hands...

...Donald Blake
thinks back upon
the village.

And the
ant.

The sick and the
dying. And the
pain...

And within these
memories, he
discovers two
truths.

DRY
PART TWO OF SIX

Truth number one:

There never was an ant.

RRRIIPPPP

NO MORE...

Nor was there a premed humanitarian trip.

There were no sick and dying people...

...desperately screaming out in pain, as he sat paralyzed by the ant's bite, unable to help them.

Because Donald Blake never truly lived a life at all.

He was made by Odin as a toy for his son to play with. To teach him a lesson.

NO MORE...

And Donald thinks...

THUNDERSTRIKE

...of the memories... the pain. The horror and heartbreak of an unreal life spent "alive"...

...about the imaginary ant. And the pain he can still recall.

And he thinks...

"What kind of monster creates something only to make it suffer?"

NO MORE...

Which leads us, of course, to truth number two:

That it is well past time to break the wings of the golden bird...

NO MORE...



...to shatter this golden city. Tear its walls down with his hands, his fingers bloodied and ragged to the bone, if he must.

To unmake every horrid thing that Odin has ever blackened with his enchantments...



...and leave his kingdom a pit. Filled with those dying and desperately screaming for help, trapped beneath the rubble of blood-stained gold.

NO MORE...



And in the middle of it all...

There will lie Odin. Paralyzed. In agony. Unable to move or help his people.

NOW... HOW... DO I TURN YOU ON AGAIN?



The pain in his heart a billion times worse...

...than the imaginary ant he inflicted on a man who never was...

NO--

EXCUSE ME...









MY...
DEAR, LOOK
AT YOU!!!

I STILL
CARRY THOR'S
MEMORIES, YOU
KNOW...

I KNOW OF
YOUR RECENT
LITTLE...SPAT.

AND AS
A DOCTOR, I
WOULD HAVE ADVISED
HIGHLY AGAINST ANY
DEMANDING PHYSICAL
LABOR...

AGH!!!

...WHILE
YOUR WOUNDS
ARE STILL
HEALING!

YOU
KNOW...YOU
AND I...WE ARE
BROTHERS!

BOTH MADE
BY ODIN TO TEACH
HIS PETULANT BRAT
A LESSON...

I SAY NO
MORE...

NO MORE
TOYS FOR
THE KING.

NO MORE
OF ODIN'S
MEDDLING.

NO
MORE...



OH...
LOOK AT
HIM.

PLEASE...
STOP IT. STOP
CRAWLING. I'VE
TAKEN ODIN'S
ENCHANTMENTS FROM
YOU AND ADDED
THEM TO MY
OWN...

...THE LEASH
IS OFF YOUR
COLLAR, CRAZY
HORSE...

...NOW LET
ME SET YOU
FREE!



HEH...
VOLSTAGG...
IS THIS
HOW YOU
GREET AN OLD
FRIEND?



AYE,
WELCOME
HOME...



...I'VE ARRANGED A
FEAST IN YOUR
HONOR...

OH...



...HOW
LOVELY...

THUNDER
GUARD, WARRIORS
OF ASGARD, ON
ME.

THE
PRETENDER
DOESN'T LEAVE
THIS ROOM.



Donald Blake lays siege to the gathered might of Asgard with the skill and strength of their own mighty king...

...twisted, bloodthirsty and black by his hatred, his madness...

And though it has been many, many years since the good doctor has faced such an imposing force...

...the armies of Asgard bend and break before him as he soars...

...like a dragon on the wind.





YOU HAVE
FOUGHT VALIANTLY,
LADY SIF...BUT YOUR
SWORD, YOUR TITLE
AND YOUR LAND ARE
NOW MINE...

YOUR
THUNDER GUARD...
YOUR WARRIORS...
ALL FELLED.

...DO
NOT FEEL
BAD...

≡HUFF≡
≡HUFF≡
NO...

PLEASE...
MY LADY...

...DON'T
BLAME
YOURSELF.

I ASSURE
YOU...

...NO ONE
COULD HAVE
SEEN THIS
COMING...

KLANK

NOOO!!!



DIMENSION
BLOOD.

ANCESTRAL HUNTING
GROUNDS OF THE
VAMPA-CABRA.

THE FARTHEST
PLACE FROM THE
FIELDS WE KNOW...

...I BELIEVE
WE HAVE MORE...
IMMEDIATE CONCERNS
TO RECKON
WITH...

NAY, THIS
HELL AND
WHATEVER DEMONS
WITHIN, I WILL
DEAL WITH...

WHAT
I WANT TO
KNOW NOW...

...IS WHERE
THE HELL IS
CHOR?!



BELOW THE SHADOWS
OF THE WORLD ASH.

THE ONCE KINGDOM AND
CAGE OF DOCTOR
DONALD BLAKE...

HELLO?!
IS THERE NO
ONE WHO CAN
HEAR MY
CALLS?!

HUGINN,
MUNINN? WHERE
HAVE YOU--

I...HEAR...
YOU...LITTLE
BIRD...

BY THE
GODS...

JORMUNGAND?!

...YES...BUT...
NOT FOR LONG,
I'M AFRAID...

WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE,
DRAGON? WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE? WHAT HAS BESTED
THE GREAT MIDGARD
SERPENT SO?

I...WAS...
BARRLED...FROM
THIS PLACE ONCE...
BY...YOUR
FATHER...

BUT...I
WAS...ALWAYS
CURIOUS...A SNAKE...
SWIRLING AROUND
A NEST OF
EGGS.

BUT...
NEVER...COULD
I BREAK THE
WALLS...
UNTIL...

UNTIL THE
ODIN-FORCE
PASSED TO
ME...

AYE, LITTLE
BIRD...AND YOUR
MAGIC'S ARE...
BROKEN...





IT AWOKE
IN HIM A FURY
UNLIKE ANYTHING
I HAVE EVER
SEEN...

...THE
RAGE OF A
MAN WAKING UP
TO FIND HIS
ENTIRE LIFE
A LIE...



"HE WILL BEND TO
NO ONE. HE CANNOT
BE STOPPED..."

"HE SLIT MY THROAT
AND TORE MY HIDE
FOR HIS ARMOR..."



YOU...YOU
HAVE NEVER
FACED ANYTHING
LIKE HIM,
THOR...



"HE IS THE DRAGON
NOW. AND YET...HE
IS SO MUCH MORE...
HE WILL TAKE...
EVERYTHING..."

EXCUSE
ME?



EVERYTHING...
YOU HAVE EVER...
LOVED...

"...WILL BURN."

DOCTOR
FOSTER, I
PRESUME?



QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



Well, Muninn, it seems nobody is safe with Donald Blake around.

Aye, it does seem bleak for Asgard...and for any who have shared the powers of the gods. We must make sure this next round of prayers reaches our lord or the others! Hurry, Huginn--begin the first message!

Hi! I'm really enjoying your comic, and really, that's enough, but you have a letters page too. I've been reading comics for a long time, and lately, when I read old comics and the letters pages, I realize how much I miss them. But I just don't see them in any of the other comics I read. So thanks for the great comic AND for the letters page! Keep up the great work, guys!

Nathaniel N.

Why, Huginn, all our hard work is a success! The mortal enjoys our remarks! Many thanks to you--a bird's work is never done nor complimented upon!

Well, it was MY wonderful idea to speak to the mortals again. So you are most welcome.

Bah! I think not! For it was mine! You simply thought they would not respond!

Hmm? I could not hear you, Muninn. I was lost in this scribe's kind words.

Fellow Asgardians,

First of all, if you printed this, I have to say it's a dream come true to be in a Thor book! I am LOVING this run of THOR! I truly feel this creative team really understands the character and the surroundings that come with him. Will we see more interactions with fellow Avengers some point soon? I am SUPER excited to see where the path leads with the return of Donald Blake. Thank you all!

Frank K.

'Tis our duty to bestow upon you this dream, Frank!

Aye! We certainly hope All-Father Thor can once again be reunited with his fellow Avengers!

Alas, too many ales hath convinced me to send thee a raven. Thank Odin, yon small, black rectangle makes it easier to say "Ho!"

THOR #7 was intriguing. I love what Donny (can I call you Donny?) is doing with Thor. The whole thing with Galactus was amazing--Stan and Jack and John would be proud. Mr. Klein and Mr. Wilson rendered that epic story beautifully (I address fellow artists more respectfully). Issue #7 provides just the kind of epilogue and setup for future developments that we need, giving us a breather as Thor and Bill reconcile over an awkward tankard of Asgardian vintage.

I LOVE Sif as the new watcher of the Rainbow Bridge!!! And I love the ravens. Thank you, Donny, for incorporating more elements from actual Norse mythology.

I have been reading these characters for about 30 years now. There have been awesome runs and forgettable runs...and runs about five years ago when just about everyone in comics had lost their way. But now you at Marvel are treating my childhood heroes with respect, honoring the past while making tweaks that actually work. Thank you.

Until Thor and Bill share a bottle of Barefoot Moscato, Make Mine Marvel.

Love y'all,
Daniel Mitchell
Columbus, GA

We shall pass along your words to Lady Sif! May it bring her strength during these dark times!

All-Father Thor demands respect--and honor! We are proud that our own Asgardian scribe Donny Cates' words of the

All-Father have spread across the cosmos and Midgard so well.

Surely soon we may all have an ale together, and brighter times can shine upon Asgard again!

To Donny Cates, Aaron Kuder and all of the other fantastic people involved with THOR #7, a thunderous round of applause to you! I had a truly wonderful time reading the latest issue of the God of Thunder's comic. I thoroughly enjoyed the character of Adam Aziz and thought that his rural depiction was spot-on to folks I know who lead the small-town life. I also think it's absolutely brilliant that I can call Tony Stark (THE Tony Stark) and get his answering machine!!! And the terrific art kept my imagination planted in Thor's world every single panel! Marvel, you have outdone yourselves with this issue, and I am most looking forward to reading what adventures await the mighty Thor next!

Jake Nichols

A thunderous round! Why, I dare say this mortal has impressed this old bird. I was unaware mortals were capable of such feats.

Our own scribe Donny Cates was the one to come up with that marvelous idea. I assume Tony is overwhelmed with all the messages! 'Tis a job no machine can master like a bird!

Thank you all, wonderful scribes! We hope All-Father Thor is victorious in these dreadful circumstances, and that we hope these kind words give him the extra strength!

Muninn, I think we should hasten these words to Jane Foster, our fearless Valkyrie, as well. For I fear Donald Blake's intentions for the good doctor...

NEXT ISSUE:



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